

EXHIBIT 8

I.8 Dominant and Counter Narrative

Unit 1 – Ethnic Studies and Narrative

I.8 Warm Up

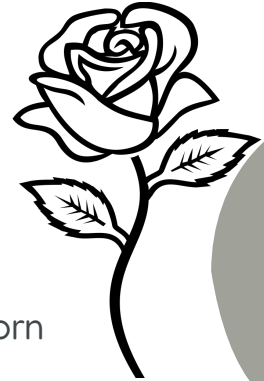
Turn and talk with your table group about the following questions. Be prepared to share with the whole class

What is one thing you heard in the news this week?

One thing I heard in the news this week was ...

What was a rose (highlight), bud (something you are looking forward to), and thorn (challenge) of this week?

This week my rose was when _____, something I'm looking forward to is _____, and a thorn would be _____.



I.8 Agenda

- Warm up / welcome / agenda / announcements
- Narrative definition
- Connect dominant and counter narratives to current events in Israel and Palestine
- Exit Ticket

Objective: Define narrative, dominant narrative, and counter narrative to help us describe the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT NARRATIVES AND COUNTER-NARRATIVES?

NARRATIVE

Definition: A story



DOMINANT NARRATIVE

Definition: an explanation or story that is told to benefit the dominant social group's interests and ideologies

Example: Pocahontas was a young woman who fell in love with an English explorer, John Smith.



COUNTER NARRATIVE

Definition: an explanation or story that is often untold or misrepresented

Example: Pocahontas (Matoaka) was an 11 year-old girl who was forced into a relationship with 28 year-old John Rolfe.



Name: _____
Period: _____

U.S. History

2.8: Israel and Palestine

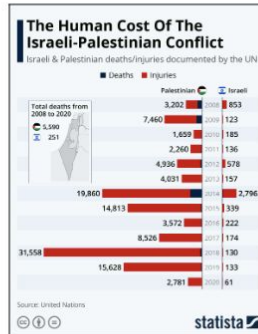
Lesson Question:



Warmup: What do you know about Israel and Palestine?

Notes:

- On October 7, 2023, people from a group from _____ named _____ attacked _____.
- They killed _____ people and injured _____ in Israel.
- Hamas attacked _____ and also _____.
- Civilians are _____.
- Israel declared a _____ on Oct. 7th, 2023.
- Israel and Palestine have been in conflict since _____.
- Israel is a country _____.
- The United Nations says _____.
- _____ of the population in Palestine are children.
- People of _____ have experienced more death and injury than people in _____.



Lesson question:

What is happening in Israel and Palestine and what are the dominant and counter narratives?



Content Warning:

Today we will talk about war and violence. Some people have experience war and violence so maybe this lesson will be hard for you. If you need a break let us know. If you want to talk to a counselor let us know. Take care of yourself.



Name: _____
Period: _____

U.S. History

2.8: Israel and Palestine

Lesson Question:



Warmup: What do you know about Israel and Palestine?

Notes:

1. On October 7, 2023, people from a group from _____ named _____

attacked _____

2. They killed _____

3. Hamas a _____

4. Civilians _____

5. Israel de _____

6. Israel an _____

7. Israel is a _____

The United Nations says _____.

8. _____ of the population in Palestine are children.

9. People of _____ have experienced more death and injury than people in _____.



Warmup:



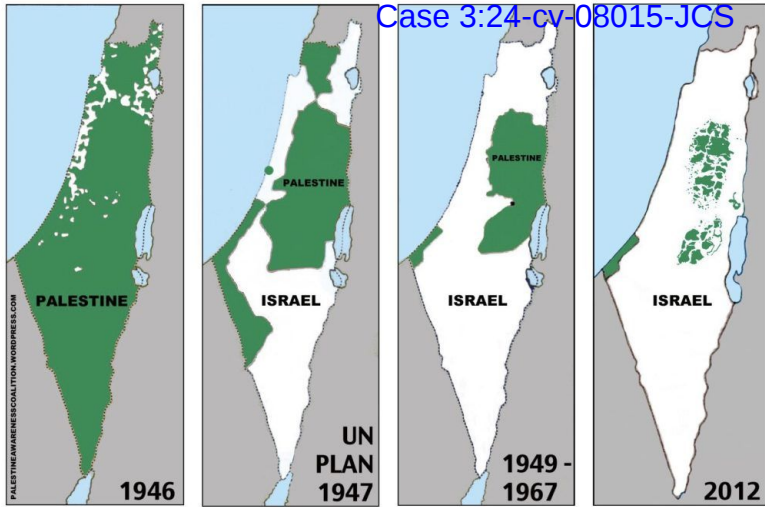
What do you know about Israel and Palestine?



Notes:



1. On October 7, 2023, people from a group from **Gaza, Palestine** named **Hamas** attacked **Israel**.
2. They killed **1,300** people and injured **3,227** in Israel.
3. Hamas attacked **soldiers** and also **civilians**.
4. Civilians **are normal people (not soldiers or police)**
5. Israel declared a **war** on Oct. 7th, 2023.



Notes:

6. Israel and Palestine have been in conflict since **1947**.

7. Israel is a country **created on Palestinian land**. The United Nations says **this is illegal**.

8. **52%** of the population in Palestine are children.

The Human Cost Of The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

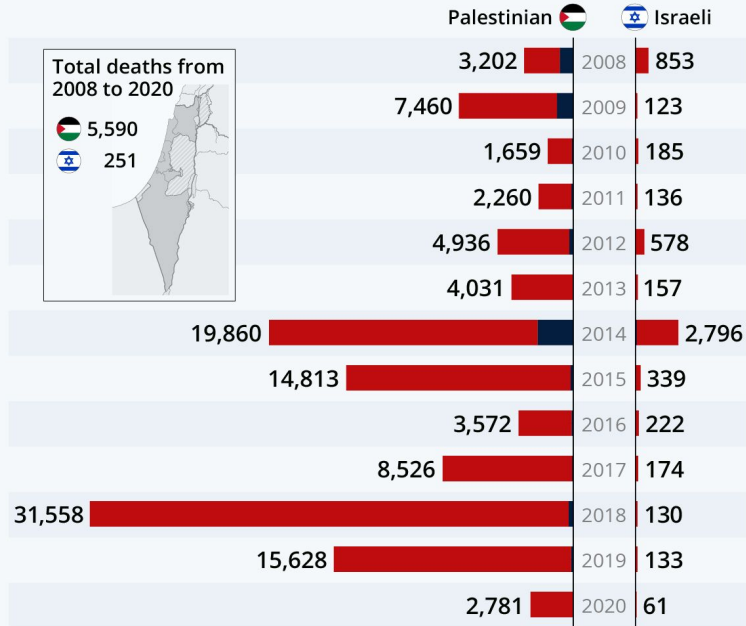
Israeli & Palestinian deaths/injuries documented by the UN

■ Deaths ■ Injuries

Palestinian 🇵🇸 Israeli 🇮🇱

Total deaths from
2008 to 2020

🇵🇸 5,590
🇮🇱 251



Source: United Nations



statista

Which side has experienced more death and injury?

9. People of Palestine have experienced more death and injury than people in Israel.



Before 1947:



Christian,
Muslim, and
Jewish people
lived in
Palestine.



1939-1945



During World War 2, Nazis killed Jewish people in Germany because of their religion. This is called the Holocaust.

1947 - Creation of Israel

Europe felt bad that Jewish people suffered so much and wanted to give them a safe home. They took land from Palestine to create the country of Israel for Jewish people.



1947

Jewish people from across the world moved to Israel.



1947 - Nakba

“Nakba” is the name for the day that Muslim and Christian people of Palestine were forced to leave their home so Jewish people could move to Israel.

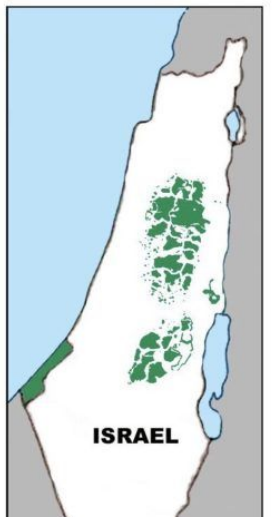




Over time, there were many wars and Israel took more land. Today, many countries do not recognize Palestine as a country.

Life in Palestine Today

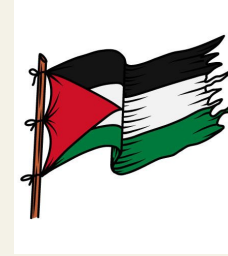
There are walls around the city of Gaza. The Human Rights Watch says it is “an open air prison”. Israel controls the water and electricity of Gaza.



Different Opinions



Some people support Israel because it is a safe home for Jewish people after they were oppressed for many years.



Some people support Palestine because the land was originally their land, and now they are being oppressed by the Israeli government.

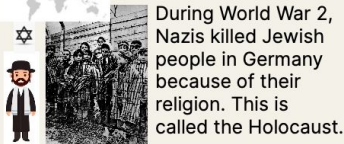
Summarize!

Notes: Israel & Palestine

Before 1947:



1939-1945



1947 - Creation of Israel



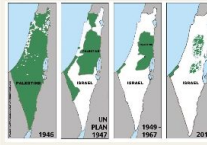
1947

Jewish people from across the world moved to Israel.



1947 - Nakba

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Over time, there were many wars and Israel took more land. Today, many countries do not recognize Palestine as a country.

Life in Palestine Today

There are walls around the city of Gaza. The Human Rights Watch says it is "an open air prison". Israel controls the water and electricity of Gaza.



Different Opinions

Some people support Israel because it is a safe home for Jewish people after they were oppressed for many years.



Some people support Palestine because the land was originally theirs, and now they are being oppressed by the Israeli government.



Write a summary in your own words about what has been happening in Israel and Palestine

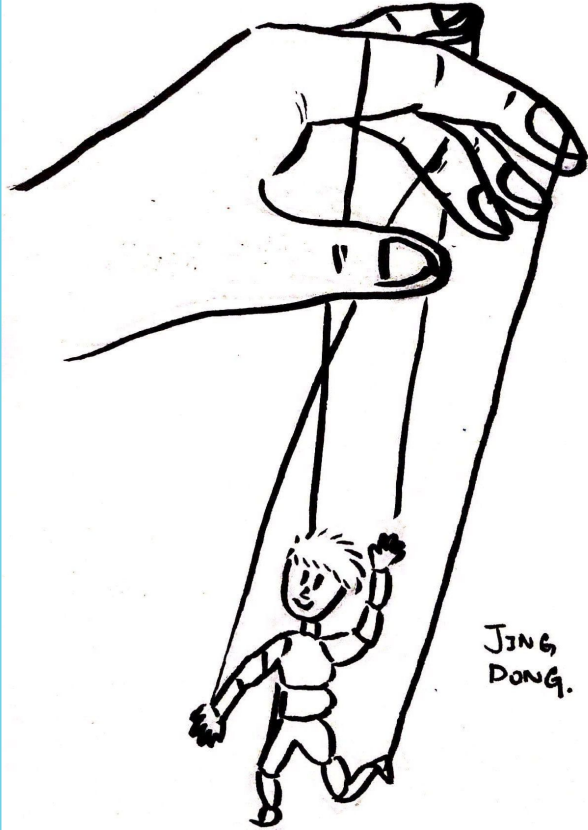
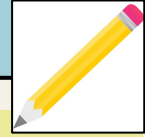


In your own words, write a summary of what happened.

Review:

Dominant
and
Counter
Narratives

Dominant Narrative



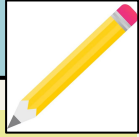
Definition: The story that is told by people in power (such as men, white people, rich people)

Definición: La historia que cuentan las personas en el poder (como hombres, blancos, ricos).

Tanım: İktidardaki kişilerin (erkekler, beyazlar, zenginler gibi) anlattığı hikaye.

定义: 由有权势的人(例如男人、白人、富人)讲述的故事

Counter Narrative



Definition: The story that is told by people with **less power (such as women, people of color, poor people)**

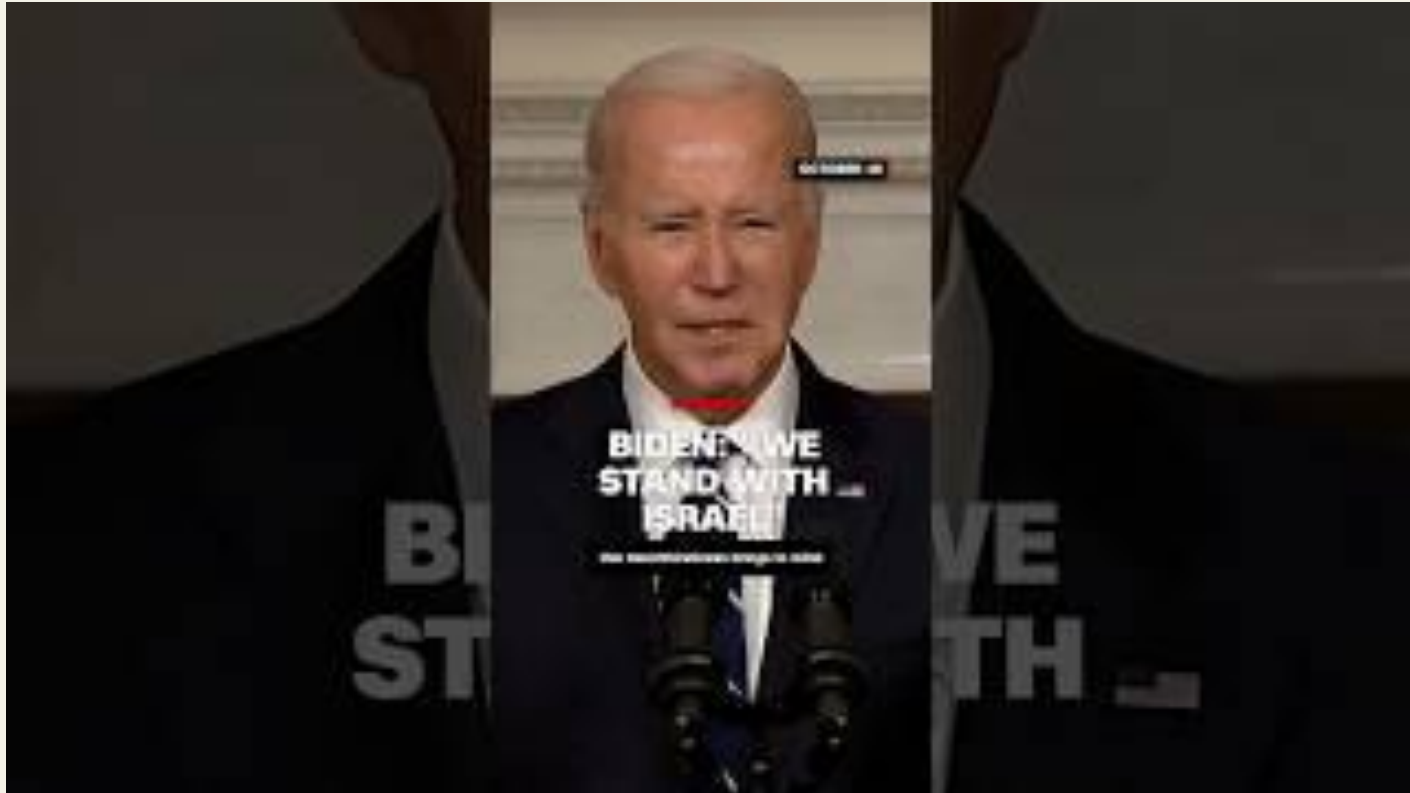
Definición: La historia contada por personas con menos poder (como mujeres, personas de color, personas pobres).

Tanım: Daha az güce sahip insanlar (kadınlar, farklı ırklardan insanlar, fakir insanlar gibi) tarafından anlatılan hikaye.

定义: 由权力较小的人(例如女性、有色人种、穷人)讲述的故事

Dominant or Counter Narrative?

Statement from Joe Biden, U.S. President



La brutalidad de Hamas, la sed de sangre, recuerdan lo peor, los peores ataques de ISIS. Esto es terrorismo. Pero, lamentablemente, para el pueblo judío esto no es nuevo. Este ataque saca a la superficie los dolorosos recuerdos de las cicatrices dejadas por milenios de antisemitismo y genocidio para el pueblo judío. Estamos con Israel. Estamos con Israel. Nos aseguraremos de que Israel tenga lo que necesita para cuidar de sus ciudadanos, defenderse y responder a este ataque.

Hamas'ın vahşeti, kana susamışlığı IŞİD'in en kötü saldırılarını akla getiriyor. Bu terörizmdir. Ama ne yazık ki Yahudi halkı için bu yeni değil. Bu saldırı, Yahudi halkı üzerinde bin yıllık antisemitizmin ve soykırımın bıraktığı yara izlerini, acı dolu anıları gün yüzüne çıkarıyor. İsrail'in yanındayız. İsrail'in yanındayız. İsrail'in vatandaşlarının kendisini savunması ve bu saldırıya yanıt vermesi için ihtiyaç duyduğu her şeye sahip olmasını sağlayacağız.

哈马斯的残暴和嗜血让人想起伊斯兰国最严重的暴行。这是恐怖主义。但可悲的是, 对于犹太人来说, 这并不新鲜。这次袭击使人们痛苦的记忆浮出水面, 即数千年来反犹太主义和种族灭绝给犹太人留下的伤疤。我们与以色列站在一起。我们与以色列站在一起。我们将确保以色列拥有照顾其公民、保卫自己和应对此次袭击所需的一切。

Narrative #1



a. Who created this narrative? / ¿Quién creó esta narrativa? / 谁创造了这个叙述?

President Joe Biden

b. Is the person who created this narrative a person with power and/or privilege? Yes or no? (ex: white people, men, rich people) / ¿La persona que creó esta narrativa es una persona con poder y/o privilegio? Si or no? (ej: gente blanca, hombres, gente rica) / Bu anlatıyı yaratan kişi güce ve/veya ayrıcalığa sahip bir kişi midir? Evet veya hayır? (örnek: beyaz insanlar, erkekler, zengin insanlar / 创造这个叙述的人是一个拥有权力和/或特权的人吗? 是不是? (例如: 白人、男性、富人)

Circle:

Yes / No

c. Is this a dominant narrative or a counter narrative?

Dominant

d. What is the message of this narrative? Summarize with 1-2 sentences. (The person who created this narrative is trying to say that _____) / ¿Cuál es el mensaje de esta narración? Resuma con 1-2 oraciones. (La persona que creó esta narrativa está tratando de decir que _____) / Bu anlatının mesajı nedir? 1-2 cümleyle özetleyin. (Bu anlatıyı yaratan kişi şunu söylemeye çalışıyor _____) / 这个叙述的信息是什么? 用1-2句话概括。(创造这个叙述的人试图说_____)

e. If people only heard this narrative and no other narrative, which side would they support? / Si la gente sólo escuchara esta narrativa y ninguna otra, ¿a qué lado apoyarían? Eğer insanlar sadece bu anlatıyı duysaydı ve başka bir anlatıyı duymasaydı hangi tarafı desteklerlerdi? / 如果人们只听到这个叙述而没有其他叙述, 他们会支持哪一边?

If people only heard this narrative, they would support Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu



Hemos comenzado y subrayo que apenas hemos comenzado a atacar a Hamás. Las imágenes de la devastación y destrucción de los bastiones de Hamás en Gaza son sólo el comienzo. Hemos eliminado a muchos cientos de terroristas y no nos detendremos ahí.

Hamas'a saldırmaya başladık ve vurguluyorum ki, Hamas'a saldırmaya daha yeni başladık. Gazze'deki Hamas kalelerinden gelen yıkım ve yıkım görüntüleri sadece başlangıç. Yüzlerce teröristi ortadan kaldırdık, bununla da kalmayacağız.

我们已经开始了，我强调我们才刚刚开始对哈马斯进行打击。加沙哈马斯据点的破坏和破坏的景象仅仅是一个开始。我们已经消灭了数百名恐怖分子，但我们不会就此止步。

Narrative #2



a. Who created this narrative? / ¿Quién creó esta narrativa? / 谁创造了这个叙述?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

b. Is person with power and/or privilege? Yes or no? (ex: white people, men, rich people) / ¿La persona que creó esta narrativa es una persona con poder y/o privilegio? Si or no? (ej: gente blanca, hombres, gente rica) / Bu anlatıyı yaratan kişi güce ve/veya ayrıcalığa sahip bir kişi midir? Evet veya hayır? (örnek: beyaz insanlar, erkekler, zengin insanlar / 创造这个叙述的人是一个拥有权力和/或特权的人吗？ 是不是？ (例如：白人、男性、富人)

Circle:

Yes / No

c. Is this a dominant narrative or a counter narrative?

Dominant

d. What is the message of this narrative? Summarize with 1-2 sentences. (The person who created this narrative is trying to say that _____) / ¿Cuál es el mensaje de esta narración? Resuma con 1-2 oraciones. (La persona que creó esta narrativa está tratando de decir que _____) / Bu anlatının mesajı nedir? 1-2 cümleyle özetleyin. (Bu anlatıyı yaratan kişi şunu söylemeye çalışıyor _____) / 这个叙述的信息是什么？ 用1-2句话概括。 (创造这个叙述的人试图说 _____)

e. If people only heard this narrative and no other narrative, which side would they support? / Si la gente sólo escuchara esta narrativa y ninguna otra, ¿a qué lado apoyarían? Eger insanlar sadece bu anlatıyı duysaydı ve başka bir anlatıyı duymasaydı hangi tarafı desteklerlerdi? / 如果人们只听到这个叙述而没有其他叙述，他们会支持哪一边?

If people only heard this narrative, they would support Israel.

Think:
According to him, what kind of people are they killing?

I.9 Dominant and Counter Narrative

Unit 1 – Ethnic Studies and Narrative

1

Alicia	

2

Patrick	Claire
Henry	Peter

3

Ella	Elise
William	Lev

4

Stella	Emma
Kira	Addy

5

Beau	Joey
Marlo	Nirmal

6

Cleo	Cole
Miya	Kevin

Cozy corner

8

Paul	Armando
Amaya	

7

Navid	Milan
Mariela	Elena

front

Montgomery's
Desk

windows

door

1

4

Cozy
corner

Emily

Josie

Ruby

Lucca

Armand
o**8**

windows

2

Jazmi n	Ashle y
Yanei sis	Jocel yn

5

Cole	Aiden
Marco	Alejan dro

3

Cam	Sofia
Sebasti an	Juliana

6

Alex	Sasha
Alexa	Aarus hi

7

Cinthi a	Valentin
Danie lla	Andre w

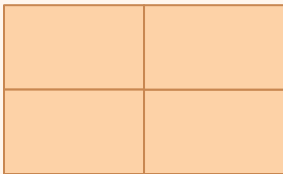
Montgomery's
Desk

front

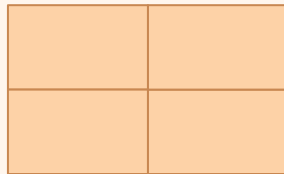
door

period

1

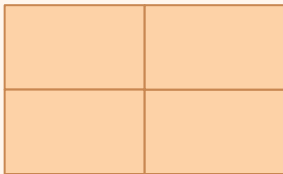


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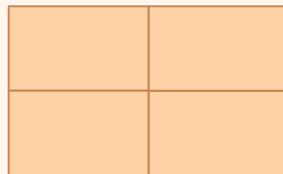


Cozy
corner

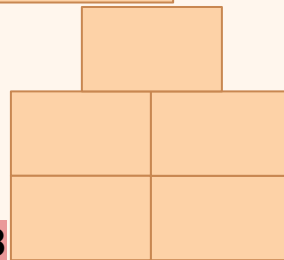
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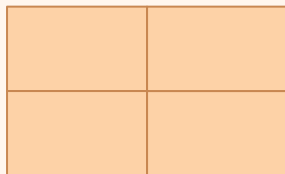
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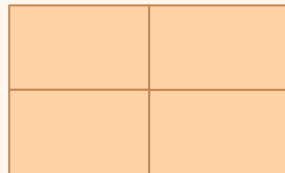
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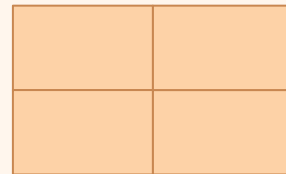
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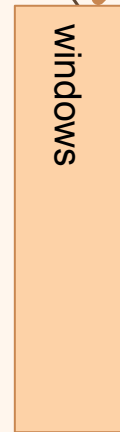
6



7



windows



Montgomery's
Desk



front



door



I.9 Warm Up

Turn and talk with your table group about the following questions. Be prepared to share with the whole class

1. Introduce yourself to your new table mates. Make sure you all know each other's names!

My name is...

2. What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is...

I.9 Agenda

- Warm up / welcome / agenda / announcements
- Connect dominant and counter narratives to current events in Israel and Palestine
- Exit Ticket – turn in white packet

Objective: Define narrative, dominant narrative, and counter narrative to help us describe the ongoing conflict in Israel and Palestine.

News video



Narrative #3



a. **Whose stories are being shared?** / ¿De quién son las historias que se comparten? / Kimin hikayeleri paylaşıyor? / 谁的故事正在被分享?

Palestinians

b. **Are the people telling their stories people with power and privilege? Yes or no? (ex: white people, men, rich people)** / ¿Las personas que cuentan sus historias son personas con poder y privilegios? ¿Sí o no? (ej: gente blanca, hombres, gente rica) / İnsanlar hikayelerini güçlü ve ayrıcalıklı insanlar mı anlatıyor? Evet veya hayır? (örnek: beyaz insanlar, erkekler, zengin insanlar) / 讲述故事的人是拥有权力和特权的人吗? 是还是不是? (例如: 白人、男性、富人)

Circle:

Yes

/

No

c. **Is this a dominant narrative or a counter narrative?**

counter

d. **What is the message of this narrative? Summarize with 1-2 sentences. (The person who created this narrative is trying to say that _____)** / ¿Cuál es el mensaje de esta narración? Resume con 1-2 oraciones. (La persona que creó esta narrativa está tratando de decir que _____) / Bu anlatının mesajı nedir? 1-2 cümleyle özetleyin. (Bu anlatıyı yaratan kişi şunu söylemeye çalışıyor _____) / 这个叙述的信息是什么? 用1-2句话概括。 (创造这个叙述的人试图说_____)

e. **If people only heard this narrative and no other narrative, which side would they support?** / Si la gente sólo escuchara esta narrativa y ninguna otra, ¿a qué lado apoyarían? Eğer insanlar sadece bu anlatıyı duysaydı ve başka bir anlatıyı duymasaydı hangi tarafı desteklerlerdi? / 如果人们只听到这个叙述而没有其他叙述, 他们会支持哪一边?

If people only heard this narrative, they would support Palestine

Social media video



Narrative #4



a. **Whose stories are being shared?** / ¿De quién son las historias que se comparten? / Kimin hikayeleri paylaşıyor? / 谁的故事正在被分享?

Palestinians

b. **Are the people telling their stories people with power and privilege? Yes or no? (ex: white people, men, rich people)** / ¿Las personas que cuentan sus historias son personas con poder y privilegios? ¿Sí o no? (ej: gente blanca, hombres, gente rica) / İnsanlar hikayelerini güçlü ve ayrıcalıklı insanlar mı anlatıyor? Evet veya hayır? (örnek: beyaz insanlar, erkekler, zengin insanlar) / 讲述故事的人是拥有权力和特权的人吗? 是不是? (例如: 白人、男性、富人)

Circle:

Yes

/

No

c. **Is this a dominant narrative or a counter narrative?**

counter

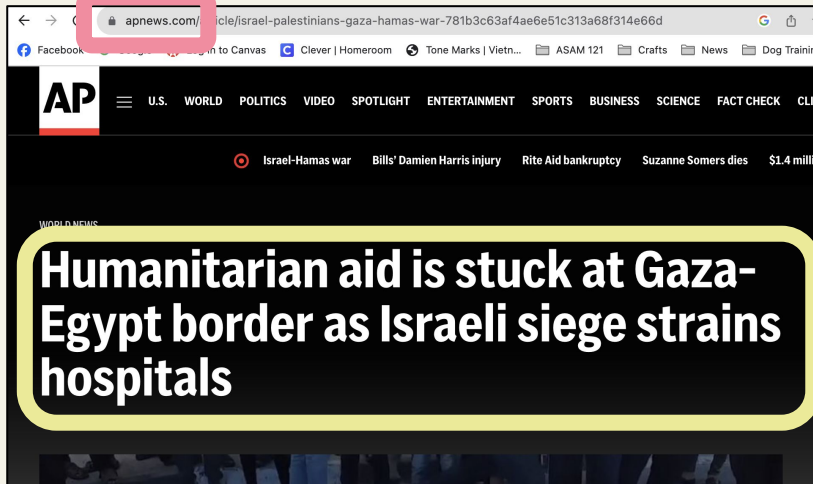
d. **What is the message of this narrative? Summarize with 1-2 sentences. (The person who created this narrative is trying to say that _____)** / ¿Cuál es el mensaje de esta narración? Resume con 1-2 oraciones. (La persona que creó esta narrativa está tratando de decir que _____) / Bu anlatının mesajı nedir? 1-2 cümleyle özetleyin. (Bu anlatıyı yaratan kişi şunu söylemeye çalışıyor _____) / 这个叙述的信息是什么? 用1-2句话概括。 (创造这个叙述的人试图说 _____)

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If people only heard this narrative, they would support Palestine

Research:

You will read news articles and analyze whose narratives are being shared.



Hospitals in Gaza are expected to run out of generator fuel in the next 24 hours, endangering the lives of thousands of patients, according to the U.N. Gaza's sole power plant shut down for lack of fuel after Israel completely sealed off the 40-kilometer (25-mile) long territory following the Hamas attack.

The World Health Organization said hospitals are "overflowing" as people seek safety. "We are concerned about disease outbreaks due to mass displacement and poor water and sanitation," it said. Four hospitals in northern Gaza are no longer functioning and 21 have received Israeli orders to evacuate. Doctors have refused, saying it would mean death for critically ill patients and newborns on ventilators.

The WHO said water shortages caused by Israel's decision to cut off water supplies, combined with a lack of fuel for pumps and desalination stations, put thousands of hospital patients at risk.

1. Name of website:

AP News

2. Title of Article:

Humanitarian aid is stuck at Gaza-Egypt Border as Israeli Siege Strains Hospitals

3a. Name of person interviewed:

World Health Organization

3b. Description of person interviewed:

A group for public health

3c. Does this person have power and privilege?

Circle:

Yes / No / not sure

3d. Why did you choose that answer for 3c?

The organization has power but less power than the government

3e. Summary of what the person is saying:

— They are saying the war will cause disease and death.

4a. Name of person interviewed:

4b. Description of person interviewed:

4c. Does this person have power and privilege?

Circle:

Yes / No / not sure

4d. Why did you choose that answer for 4c?

4e. Summary of what the person is saying:

5. Does this news article show one narrative or multiple narratives?



news about israel and palestine interview

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

1. Search “News about Israel and Palestine interview” on Google.
2. Pick any article. The article must include quotes from at least two different people.
3. Answer the questions on your paper.



Submit the white packet as your exit ticket!!!

1

Alicia	

2

Patrick	Claire
Henry	Peter

3

Ella	Elise
William	Lev

4

Stella	Emma
Kira	Addy

5

Beau	Joey
Marlo	Nirmal

6

Cleo	Cole
Miya	Kevin

Cozy corner

8

Paul	Armando
Amaya	

7

Navid	Milan
Mariela	Elena

front

Montgomery's
Desk

windows

door

1

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Cozy
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Emily

Josie

Ruby

Lucca

Armand
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windows

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Alexa	Aarus hi

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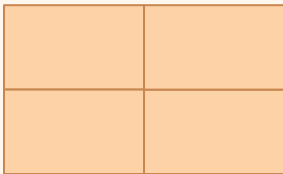
Montgomery's
Desk

front

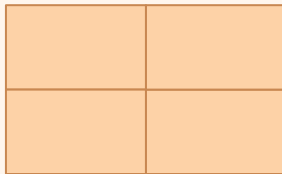
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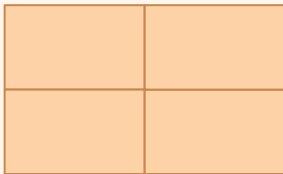


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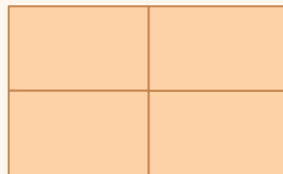


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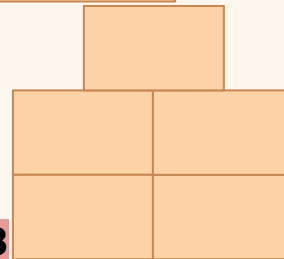
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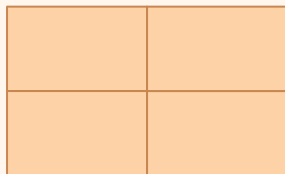
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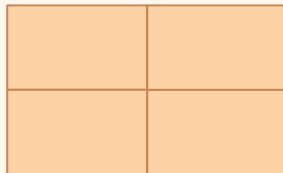
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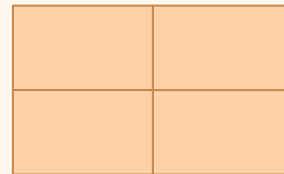
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6



7



windows



Montgomery's
Desk



front



door



I.IO Warm Up

Turn and talk with your table group about the following questions. Be prepared to share with the whole class

What's your favorite thing about winter?

What is your favorite class so far?

I.I0 Agenda

- Warm up / welcome / agenda / announcements
- Start Timeline to Ethnic Studies
- Exit Ticket – turn in white packet

Objective: Create a timeline to help us understand how Ethnic Studies became a class at our school.

Counselors coming today

Expectations:



- Show them your respect and attention
- Electronics away
- One mic

The background features several abstract, organic shapes in muted colors: a large tan shape in the center, a brown shape on the left, and grey shapes on the right. A black line drawing of a leaf is positioned at the top center.

Timeline Work Time



Exit Ticket

- 
- Collect your timeline cards with a paperclip / put them in an envelope
 - Clean up the area around your desks
- 

1

Alicia	

4

Stella	Emma
Kira	Addy

Cozy
corner**2**

Patrick	Claire
Henry	Peter

5

Beau	Joey
Marlo	Nirma l

8

Paul	Arma ndo
Amay a	

windows

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Ella	Elise
William	Lev

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Cleo	Cole
Miya	Kevin

7

Navid	Milan
Mariel la	Elena

front

Montgomery's
Desk

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Emily

Josie

Ruby

Lucca

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Yanei sis	Jocel yn

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Cole	Aiden
Marco	Alejan dro

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Cam	Sofia
Sebasti an	Juliana

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Alex	Sasha
Alexa	Aarus hi

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Cinthi a	Valentin
Danie lla	Andre w

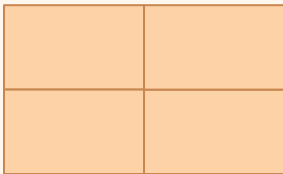
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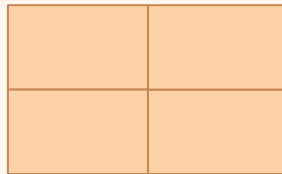
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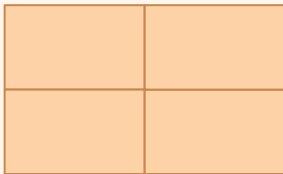
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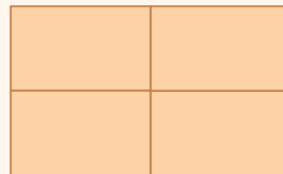
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Cozy
corner

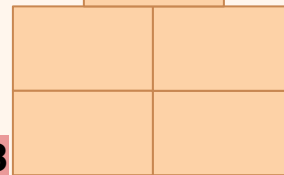
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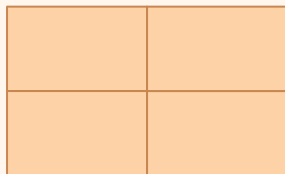
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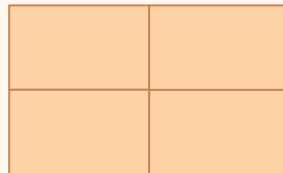
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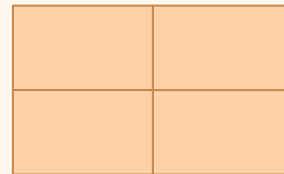
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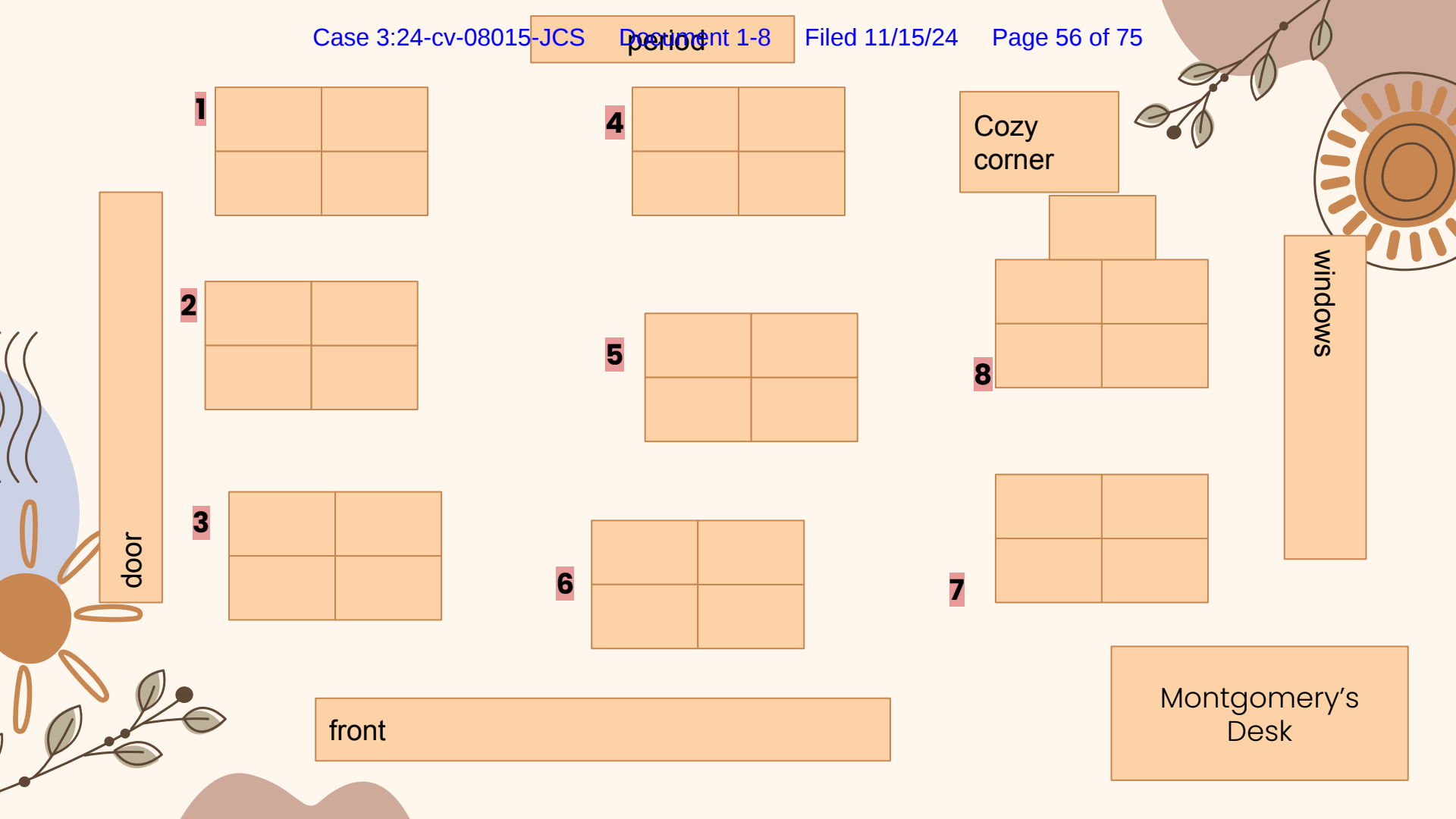
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windows



front

Montgomery's
Desk

I.II Warm Up

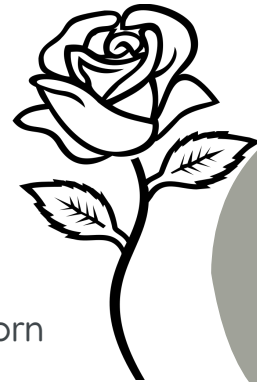
Turn and talk with your table group about the following questions. Be prepared to share with the whole class

What is one thing you heard in the news this week?

One thing I heard in the news this week was ...

What was a rose (highlight), bud (something you are looking forward to), and thorn (challenge) of this week?

This week my rose was when _____, something I'm looking forward to is _____, and a thorn would be _____.



I.II Agenda

- Warm up / welcome / agenda / announcements
- Finish Timeline to Ethnic Studies
- Backfire Effect Notes
- Exit Ticket – turn in pink packet

Objective: Create a timeline to help us understand how Ethnic Studies became a class at our school.

Define backfire effect to prepare us for difficult conversations in Ethnic Studies.



Timeline Work Time

Compare your answers with another group to complete the final column
Answer the reflection questions

THE BACKFIRE EFFECT

What is the Backfire Effect and how can we combat it in society (and this course)?



WHAT WAS THE DOMINANT NARRATIVE THAT THE KIDS KNEW?
WHAT WAS THE COUNTER-NARRATIVE?
**HOW DID STUDENTS REACT TO THE COUNTER-NARRATIVE (FINDING
OUT SANTA ISN'T REAL)**

Emotional Barometer

You will be reflecting on how you feel about each of the facts below using an emotional barometer. A 1 on the barometer means the statement had no effect on your emotions, a 3 means the statement had little effect on you, and a 5 means your emotions are off the chains.

No Effect (1)



Somewhat (3)



WOW! (5)



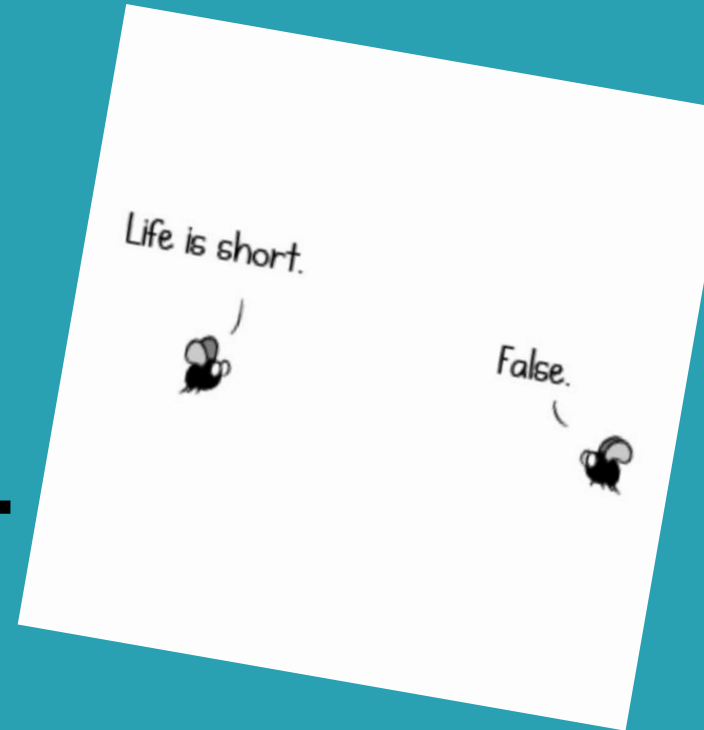


**WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD
ABOUT ...
THE LENGTH OF THE LIFE OF
A HOUSE FLY?**



What if I told you...

**THAT HOUSE FLIES
LIVE FOR ABOUT A
MONTH AND NOT JUST
24 HOURS?**





**WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD
ABOUT ...**

**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE'S
HEIGHT?**



What if I told you...

THAT NAPOLEON WAS
NOT SHORT. HE WAS 5'7",
WHICH WAS TALLER
THAN THE AVERAGE
FRENCHMAN AT THE
TIME.





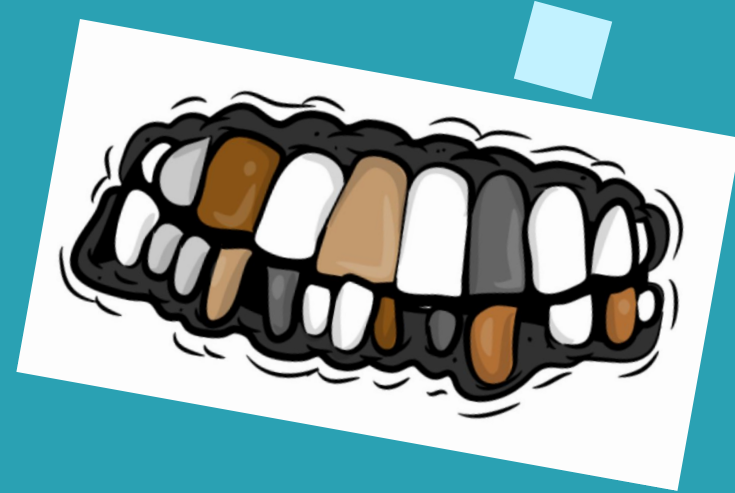
**WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD
ABOUT ...**

**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
TEETH?**



What if I told you...

**THAT WASHINGTON DID
SOMETIMES WEAR
DENTURES THAT WERE
MADE OUT OF GOLD, LEAD,
HIPPOPOTAMUS IVORY,
HORSE AND DONKEY
TEETH?**



**THAT GEORGE
WASHINGTON'S TEETH ALSO
CAME FROM ENSLAVED
PEOPLE'S MOUTHS?**

According to George Washington's ledger, on May 8, 1784, he paid 6 pounds 2 shillings to "Negros for 9 Teeth on Acct of Dr Lemoin". This money went to the dentist, not the enslaved person's.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Fact 1: House flies live for about a month

Fact 2: Napoleon was not short

Fact 3: Washington had metal and animal dentures

Fact 4: Washington had dentists implant the teeth of slaves into his mouth

1. Were the first three facts easier to accept than the fourth?
2. Did you have a different feeling when you heard the fourth fact?
3. Did you have an urge to go and research that Washington's teeth were from the mouths of slaves?
4. Why is it hard for us to believe evidence that counters our beliefs?
5. Can you think of any beliefs that people have that you know are not factual and yet they still believe the information?
6. How do you feel after learning about the Backfire Effect?

The Backfire Effect

- Well-documented psychological behavior
- USC conducted a study where participants were placed in an MRI and were presented with counterarguments to strongly held political beliefs
 - “Gay marriage should not be legalized”
- Brains scanned for activity
- Same part of the brain that responds to physical threat responds to intellectual ones
 - Called the amygdala
- Our core beliefs are beliefs which people cherish most deeply
 - These beliefs usually develop from childhood and solidify through life experiences
 - They can be inflexible, rigid, and sensitive to being challenged

The Backfire Effect

- You may have held the worldview that Washington was a patriot and hero, but you were just presented with negative information
 - This might not fit in your brain and causes your brain to backfire
- Another term for the backfire effect is cognitive dissonance
 - Cognitive dissonance causes feelings of unease and tension, and people attempt to relieve this discomfort in different ways.
 - Examples include “explaining things away” or rejecting new information that conflicts with their existing beliefs.

backfire effect

a psychological phenomenon that occurs when contradicting evidence challenges our deepest convictions - our beliefs get stronger and trigger an emotional rather than a reasoned response



Exit Ticket - Turn in both worksheets!